SAIL's programme to **increase steel production**

1931. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India has announced an ambitious programme of investment of Rs. 25,000 crore to increase steel production;

(b) if so, to what extent Government are confident to meet shortage after investing so much money;

(c) the average production of steel at present; and

(d) the total demand and to what extent the plan for investment of Rs. 25,000 crore will help in meeting the demand of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has drawn a Corporate Plan 2012 which focuses on growth, cost and quality competitiveness.

(b) to (d) The current level of average production of finished Steel in the country is 36.02 MT. The Government has projected 65 MT of annual consumption to be met principally through domestic production by 2012 and SAIL's contribution to this will be 16.6 MT after completion of the investment programme.

Revival of RSP

†1932. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any big package for the revival of Rourkela Steel Plant, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have any plan to revive the sick enterprises of public sector on the line of Rourkela Steel Plant, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also contemplating any package for the factories of Raibarelly, Amethi, Naini, Allahabad and Gorakhpur which are lying closed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Rourkela Steel Plant has already been turned around and in the 1st quarter 2004-05, it has made a marginal net profit.

(b) SAIL has drawn and is implementing loss minimization plans, in Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Salem Steel Plant (SSP) and Visvesvaraya Iron Steel Plant. (VISP). Further, in case of Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO), Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved the Revival Plan and the same is under implementation.

(c) and (d) No specific package is under consideration of the Government for the revival of the private sector steel plants.

Increasing the prices of steel by companies

†1933. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel producing companies of the country have again announced to increase the prices of steel during July and August, 2004;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have increased the prices of steel and to what extent they have increased the prices of steel;

(c) whether reasons for such increase have also been mentioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have taken pny measures to keep check on such hike?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Government monitors the domestic market prices of steel items but does not maintain price data on steel sold by individual steel producing companies. The trend in domestic market prices of key steel items prevailing during April, 2004 to August, 2004 in the Mumbai market is given belowv—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.